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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,214	09/22/2003	Michael Shafir	25710	5751

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EXAMINER PHAM, TOAN NGOC	
ART UNIT 2632	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/665,214	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SHAFIR, MICHAEL	
	<b>Examiner</b> Toan N Pham	<b></b>	

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-6, 17, 18, 20 and 26 drawn to a method of encoding a tag, classified in class 235, subclass 435.
- II. Claim 8, drawn to a method for alerting suspected theft, classified in class 340, subclass 568.1.
- III. Claim 9, drawn to a method for stock management (inventory), classified in class 340, subclass 5.92.
- IV. Claim 10, drawn to surgical instrument tracking, classified in class 340, subclass 572.1.
- V. Claim 11, drawn to authorizing electrical appliances, classified in class 340, subclass 572.4.
- VI. Claims 12-16, and 19 drawn to a method for decoding a tag, classified in class 235, subclass 435.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-VI are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In

the instant case the different inventions are encoding a tag; anti-theft; inventorying; authorizing electrical appliances and decoding a tag.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II-VI, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan N Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-2967. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J Wu can be reached on (571) 272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 9, 2004

TOAN N. PHAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

